

Strange and wonderful News

FROM

CHIPPINGNORTON

IN THE

Connty of Oxon.

Of certain dreadful

APARITIONS,

WHICH

Were seen in the Air, on the 28th of *July*, which began about half an hour after nine of the Clock at Night, and continued till near eleven, in which time was seen the appearances of several Flaming Swords, strange Motions of of the superior Orbs, with the unusual sparkling of the Stars, with their dreadful Continuations.

With the Account of the opening of the Heavens, and strange Appearances therein disclosing themselves, with several other prodigious circumstances, not heard of in any Age, to the great amazement of the Beholders, as it was communicated in a Letter, to one *Mr. The Colley* living in *West-Smithfield*, and Attested by *Thos. Brown, Eliz. Greenaway* and *Ann Gatheridge*, who were spectators of the dreadful Apparitions.

And if any Person would be further satisfied of the Truth of this Relation, let them repair to *Mr. Nightingale* at the *Bear-Inn* in *West Smithfield*, and they may be satisfied

WHat shall we say, when Prodigies still attend the rising Sun and the falling Sun, Heavens hard must sure be in the genuine product of such monstrous Births, when leaping Fires surround the dazzling Orbs, and Natures self begins to Groan, when swift winged Lightnings and impetuous Thunders role, to rend the watry Fleeces of the Skies, where factions Meteors Muster all their Forces, and contend with warring Elements, as if they would unhinge the Globe, or re-

duce the Universe into its primal Chaos, and in an undigested Heap of all Confusion, lay the mighty Mass, so powerful and so dreadful have their late effects been known, so that some have felt their irresistible Forces, and confirmed the Testimony of their Rapid Violence to after Ages, with Tragical Scene of their expired Breath, being stricken dead with unexpected Flames and many Towns and Villages have suffered much in those tempestuous Storms and furious gusts, beside, whole Fields of standing Corn, by violent and unexpected Showers of falling Rain and Hail, have been destroyed, to the almost undoing of many rural Intendants, but not to dwell on this too long. I shall here give my Reader an impartial Account of so strange and wonderful a Prodegy the like has not been heard in many Ages for sure it is, that Heaven seldom does austend such dreadful Sights to the admiring Sons of men, but it thereby forewarns them of some notable Event, that by such Heralds oft are ushered in, and certainly, a dawning Fate sits blushing on their dismal Fronts, the Prodegy of which I here intend to Treat, the Truth of which is credibly Attested be many serious Persons; who beheld the same to their Amazement; it is as followeth.

At a place called *Chipping-Norton*, in *Oxford-shire*, on the 28th of *July*, between the hours of nine and eleven at Night, the Skies being serene, (yet notwithstanding, by reason of the Heat attracted in the superiour Regions, by the Beams of the Sun that precedent Day) there issued great Sheets of Flame or Glances of Lightning, without Thunder, by reason it met with no Opposition nor Massy Clouds in their descending to their proper Centers, they continued for some time without intermission, so that those Sulphurous fumes dispersing themselves from every Quarter of the Globe that by reason of their Heat they corrupted the Air, and caused a strange and unusual smell so that many adjudged it to proceed from those still continuing Sulphurous Flames and Exhalations, this continuing till about the the hour before mentioned, at which time, some people gazing in the Streets, and some out of their Windows, could discern strange Alteration in the course and motions of the Stars, these Nocturnal Tapers that bespangle the Blew Arch of Heaven upon which, they taking a more serious Observation, could from the West part of Heaven, discern the Skies to open, and from thence to proceed, a perfect Flaming Sword, which pointed so directly

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directly to the *East*, its Shape was perfect, and of a prodigious size, twirling round, as if it was managed with some active Hand, at which Motion, the Golden Stars seemed all in Clusters, joyned as if commanded to impose themselves in Battel Array: moving with such celerity, as if each one had took his Station, all fiery red they twinkel round, and seemed to manage with their sparkling Nods, no tooner did this disappear, but straight another did disclose its dreadful self, for not far distant from the Equater, the Skies unfolding as before, another Flaming Sword more large and perfect than the first, from which the sparkling Fire dispersed themselves abroad, still mounting upwards, and all the burning Orbs that did surround, continued their like motion as the other; this appearing a considerable time, gave opportunity to the Spectators to take a more perfect View, but it also disappeared, and another in the same Form and posture, appeared at *North, North-West*; and after many Circlings, and often sparkling of Fire, it passed onwards towards the *South-East*; and after some time, disappeared to the Great amazement of the Beholders, who thought now that all was overpast, but they were quickly convinced of their Errors, for in the *East*, Flashes of Lightning began to play most Furiously so that many took their Houses, to avoid the hot Flashes that descended and ran along the Ground; so that it was exceeding Light, although the Moon did not shine; whereupon the Skies unfolding, another Sword appeared like unto the former but larger, and of a more bloody colour being judged to be five yards in length; but by reason of the disproportionable height, it was impossible to be exact in this point, but dreadful was its appearance; the Stars swiftly shooting round about it after an unwonted manner; It coming on apace towards the *South West*, tho the Wine was contrary it no sooner being arrived in the midst of our Horizon but another Appeared in the *South*, the which also moving forwards, that from the *East* meeting it, seemed to divide it as it were in two parts, whereupon the Skies seemed to open several times to great astonishment of all that observed it, and still as the Skies opened, the which was about ten or eleven times, some strange shapes or other appeared.

Thus

Thus it continued for the space of an hour and a half, all this while there being an exceeding strong and Sulphurous smell. this dreadful Scene lasted near the space of two hours, and is faithfully Attested by several of the Inhabitants of the place aforesaid.

FINIS.